

# COSFORD RURAL DISTRICT, 1904,

*In the Administrative County of West Suffolk.*

## Twenty-sixth Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

On the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Cosford Rural District of the Cosford Union,  
during the twelve months ending the 31st December, 1904.

(TENTH ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COSFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL.)

*Population* (1891) 12354, (1901) 11618, (*Males* 5809, *Females* 5809).

*Area*, 48328 acres. *Number of Persons per acre*, 0.2.

*Number of Inhabited Houses*, 2703. *Number of Persons per Inhabited House*, 4.2.

I. BIRTHS. The number of births registered during the year was **281**, being one less than in 1903, making a birth-rate of **24.1** per thousand of the population. The births and birth-rates during the past five years were :—

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Births .....	325	327	278	282	281
Birth-rates ...	26.3	28.1	23.9	24.2	24.1

II. DEATHS. The number of deaths from all causes was the same as in the previous year, **169** (77 males and 92 females), being a death-rate of **14.5** per thousand of the population. This, as was pointed out last year, is an exceptionally low rate. The deaths and death-rates for the past five years were as follows :—

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Deaths.....	196	179	194	169	169
Death-rates...	15.7	15.4	16.6	14.5	14.5

*Infantile Mortality.* There were 30 deaths among infants under 1 year of age, making a death-rate of 106.7 per thousand on the registered births—22 of these occurred in the Lavenham Division of the District. The proportions of deaths under 1 year of age to births in the last five years were :—

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	107.6	107.03	129.4	108.5	106.7

*Zymotic Diseases.* There were 9 deaths during the year due to zymotic diseases. They were—Scarlet Fever 1, Diphtheria 5, Enteric Fever 1, Epidemic Influenza 1, Diarrhœa 1. The zymotic deaths and death-rates in the past five years were as follows :—

	Small-pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Fever.	Diarrhœa. Dysentery.	Typhoid Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Epidemic Influenza.	Erysipelas.	Totals.	Death-rates.
1900	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	4	—	—	8	.6
1901	—	—	2	1	1	2	—	—	8	1	15	1.29
1902	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	11	3	—	19	1.6
1903	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	2	5	—	10	.8
1904	—	1	5	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	9	.7

*Deaths from all other causes* were **160**, or **13.7** per thousand of the population. The deaths in this district caused by the principal diseases, and death-rates during the past five years were :—

	Phthisis.	Bronchitis. Pleurisy. Pneumonia.	Heart Disease.	Injury.	Other Diseases.	Totals.	Death-rates.
1900...	9	22	14	5	138	188	15.2
1901...	9	23	18	2	112	164	14.1
1902...	13	28	27	1	106	175	15.0
1903...	9	14	21	3	112	159	13.6
1904...	9	18	19	4	110	160	13.7

III. THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT. The total number of cases notified in this district in 1904 was **56**, or **4.8** per thousand of the population. The cases notified during the past five years were :—

	Smallpox.	Continued Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Memb. Croup.	Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Totals.	Per Thousand of Population.
1900	—	—	70	1	—	1	—	3	75	6.0
1901	—	—	4	17	—	5	—	2	28	2.4
1902	—	—	18	2	—	—	2	—	22	1.8
1903	—	—	66	2	—	5	—	2	75	6.5
1904	—	—	33	17	1	1	—	4	56	4.8

*Small Pox.* There were no cases of Small-pox in the district during the year.

*Scarlet Fever.* There were **33** cases notified during the year. Seven at Brettenham, two at Cockfield, nineteen at Lavenham, and five at Naughton. Three of the cases occurred in Lavenham last January, where Scarlet Fever had been prevalent since the previous July. A second outbreak of the disease occurred in October. It was

confined almost entirely to children attending school, and was of a mild character. The outbreak at Brettenham was traced to some unrecognised cases having attended school whilst still infectious. It was generally of a mild type, though one case proved fatal. In this instance a servant girl had returned home with the disease upon her. She was not attended by any medical man, and mixed freely with her friends and relations, the result being that one of her brothers caught the fever and died.

A temporary Isolation Hospital to accommodate eight patients was erected by Courténay Warner, Esq., M.P., the whole expense of the maintenance and management of which was borne by him. This proved to be a great boon to the parish, and was of much service in combatting the outbreak.

All the reported cases were visited, the houses disinfected, the school closed, and all possible precaution taken to prevent the spread of the disease. The outbreak at Naughton was confined to one family.

*Diphtheria.* Of the 17 cases notified during the year, one was at Monks Eleigh, and sixteen at Cockfield. The outbreak at Cockfield occurred at the beginning of September, soon after the re-assembling of the school at the end of the summer holidays. The first case notified was that of a school boy who died the same day. On investigation I found that one or two children had been absent a day or two from school, from sickness, supposed to be mumps. They had not been seen by any doctor, and two of them were unnotified cases of diphtheria, and class mates of the boy who died. The cases were entirely amongst school children or the younger members of the same families, and four of them proved fatal. The disease had probably been introduced from the neighbouring parish of Shimpling, where there had been an outbreak a short time before. Some of the Cockfield children attend Shimpling school.

The school at Cockfield was closed by my orders on the first appearance of the disease, and the usual precautions of disinfecting infected houses, and isolating cases (as far as possible) were carried out. The school was thoroughly disinfected before being re-opened. Diphtheria anti-toxin was provided at the expense of the Council.

*Typhoid Fever.* There was only one case during the year, which proved fatal. It occurred in Boxford, and was the case of a visitor from London, who shewed symptoms of the disease soon after her arrival, so that it was evident that she had contracted it elsewhere.

*Puerperal Fever.* There were no cases notified.

IV. WATER SUPPLY. The villages in the district provided with public wells, from which they partly derive their water supply are:—Cockfield, Groton, Hitcham, Lindsey, Lavenham, Monks Eleigh, Polstead, and Whatfield.

Those parishes which depend almost entirely on ponds for their water supply are:—Aldham, Brettenham, Elmsett, Kettlebaston, Milden, Naughton, Nedging, Thorpe Morieux, Preston and Wattisham.

HITCHAM. The work at Hitcham has been at a standstill for the past twelve months, so that no use has yet been made of No. 2 well. The site of the reservoir has not yet been decided on, but it is to be hoped that another year will see the completion of the scheme.

LAVENHAM. The question of the Lavenham water supply was fully dealt with in a special report, in the early part of the year. There has been an ample supply of water from the standpipe in Water Street all the year.

ELMSETT. An attempt to obtain a public supply is to be made by boring on a site near the Rectory.

BRETTEHAM. Some of the cottages at Brettenham have been supplied with pond water filtered through beds of sand and gravel, but this system has not been working long enough yet for me to speak positively as to its advantages.

Fifteen samples of water have been analysed by me during the year, and ten of these were condemned as unfit for drinking and culinary purposes.

V. SEWERAGE. Prof. Robinson's scheme for the better disposal of the sewage of Lavenham was abandoned by the Council, which has now under consideration a plan for providing a public scavenger for Lavenham, and the substitution of pail closets for the existing system. This scheme has the sanction of the Local Government Board.\*

VI. HOUSES AND COTTAGES. Three cottages have been repaired during the year. No case of overcrowding has been reported.

VII. FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT. The Factories in this district do not come under the jurisdiction of the Council under this Act, except in respect to Fire; and they are all provided with sufficient means of escape in case of emergency.

The only workshops in the district are the Bake-houses—nineteen in number. They have all been inspected during the year. They are all above ground, and it was only necessary to serve one notice for cleansing.

Section 22 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, is not in force in the district.

VIII. ISOLATION HOSPITAL. None.

IX. SANITARY INSPECTION. Report of Mr. Scrivener, Inspector of Nuisances.—“A house-to-house inspection of the district was made during the year, and 142 notices were served for the abatement of nuisances, a list of which in the several parishes is given in the table at the end of this report. 140 of these nuisances have been abated.”

X. SPECIAL REPORTS. One special report was made on the Lavenham water supply.

The Tabular Statements according to the forms supplied by the Local Government Board, of sickness and mortality in the district, are appended to this report. Also a Tabular Statement according to a form required by the West Suffolk County Council.

ALFRED THOMPSON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

\*Sub-section 2, Section 26, Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, has been adopted by the Council.



TABLE II.—Cosford Rural District.

Names of Localities.	1. WHOLE DISTRICT.						2. HADLEIGH DIVISION.						3. LAVENHAM DIVISION.					
	Births registered.			Deaths at all Ages.			Births registered.			Deaths at all Ages.			Births registered.			Deaths at all Ages.		
	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.
YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.
1894 ..	12354	364	203	50	4483	144	76	16	7871	220	127	34	7871	220	127	34	7871	220
1895 ..	..	370	216	41	..	156	72	12	..	214	144	29	..	195	136	21	..	195
1896 ..	..	341	221	37	..	146	85	16	..	195	136	21	..	195	136	21	..	195
1897 ..	..	338	173	23	..	141	63	10	..	196	110	13	..	196	110	13	..	196
1898 ..	..	320	200	40	..	124	82	18	..	196	118	22	..	196	118	22	..	196
1899 ..	..	310	187	25	..	103	62	7	..	207	115	18	..	207	115	18	..	207
1900 ..	..	325	196	35	..	134	70	10	..	191	126	25	..	191	126	25	..	191
1901 ..	11618	327	179	35	4737	130	68	11	6881	197	111	24	6881	197	111	24	6881	197
1902 ..	..	278	184	36	..	103	89	16	..	175	105	20	..	175	105	20	..	175
1903 ..	..	282	169	34	..	115	53	8	..	167	106	26	..	167	106	26	..	167
Averages of years 1894 to 1903 ..	..	325.5	191.8	35.6	..	129.6	72	12.4	..	195.9	119.8	23.2	..	195.9	119.8	23.2	..	195.9
1904 ..	11618	281	169	30	4737	103	62	8	6881	178	107	22	6881	178	107	22	6881	178

TABLE I.—Cosford Rural District.

For Whole District.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	
		Number.	Rate*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate*		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1894	...	12354	364	29.4	50	137.3	203	16.4	12
1895	...	...	370	29.9	41	110.8	216	17.4	23
1896	...	...	341	27.6	37	108.5	221	17.8	23
1897	...	...	338	27.3	23	68.0	173	14.0	12
1898	...	...	320	25.9	40	125.	200	16.1	18
1899	...	...	310	25.0	25	80.6	167	13.5	16
1900	...	...	325	26.3	35	107.6	196	15.8	19
1901	...	11618	327	28.1	35	107.0	179	15.4	17
1902	...	...	278	23.9	36	129.4	194	16.6	19
1903	...	...	282	24.2	34	120.5	169	14.5	10
Averages for years 1894 to 1903...	...	325.5	26.7	35.6	109.4	191.8	15.7	16.9	
1904	...	11618	281	24.1	30	106.7	169	14.5	13

\*Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

At census of 1901—

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 48572  
Total Population at all ages ... 11618  
Number of Inhabited Houses ... 2703  
Average Number of Persons per house ... 4.2

Table IV.—Cosford Rural District.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during year 1904.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole district at subjoined ages.						Deaths in Localities. (at all ages.)			Deaths in Public Institutions.
	Under 1 year.	1 & under 5	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	1	2	3	
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 & under 5	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	1	2	3	
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Whooping-cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ..	5	2	..	..	..	..	5	..	5	..
Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Other continued Epidemic Influenza ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Diarrhoea ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Septic Diseases ..	9	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	6	1
Phthisis ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Other tubercular diseases ..	14	..	..	..	..	..	14	..	8	1
Cancer, malignant disease ..	10	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	9	..
Bronchitis ..	8	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	6	..
Pneumonia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pleurisy ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..
Alcoholism ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Veneral Diseases ..	6	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	4	..
Premature Birth ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	..
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition ..	19	..	..	..	..	..	19	..	12	..
Heart Diseases ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	2	..
Accidents ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..
Suicides ..	81	..	..	..	..	..	81	..	42	11
All other causes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All causes ..	169	30	6	9	43	75	169	53	103	13

TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1904.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.						Tot'l cases notified in each locality.		
	At all ages.			At ages—Years.			Tot'l cases notified in each locality.		
	Under 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	Under 15.	15 to 25.	1	2	3
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria ..	17	14	..	..	..	..	17	..	17
Membranous Croup ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Erysipelas ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	2
Scarlet Fever ..	33	19	6	1	..	..	33	..	33
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	56	33	6	6	11	56	56	3	53

ISOLATION HOSPITAL .. .. NONE.

Cosford Rural District

In the Administrative County of  
West Suffolk.

1904.

Twenty-sixth Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

BY

ALFRED THOMPSON, L.R.C.P., Lond., M.R.C.S., Eng.

(Tenth Annual Report to the Cosford Rural  
District Council.)

MARTIN, STEAM PRINTERS, SUDBURY.

Sanitary Statistics of Cosford Rural District, for the Year 1904.

SUBJECTS	Aldham	Bildesdon	Boxford	Brent Eleigh	Brettenham	Chelsworth	Cockfield	Edwardstone	Elmsett	Groton	Hadleigh Hamlet	Hitcham	Kersey	Kettlebaston	Lavenham	Layham	Lindsey	Milden	Monks Eleigh	Naughton	Nedding	Polstead	Preston	Semer	Thorpe Morieux	Wattisham	Whatfield	Workhouse	Total.	
Acreage ... ..	1755	1171	1325	1684	1438	877	3626	1891	1992	1560	427	4308	1510	1041	2898	2531	1230	1343	2099	980	856	3414	2006	1242	2497	1272	1599	...	48572	
Population—1901 ... ..	238	788	612	182	273	199	854	416	361	358	183	755	482	129	2018	464	221	152	553	142	171	669	288	182	370	149	317	92	11618	
"    1891 ... ..	228	736	682	221	336	227	926	420	434	437	191	874	482	120	1908	542	253	160	547	144	200	745	318	189	385	178	365	116	12354	
I. Births— ... ..	4	20	10	8	11	5	21	10	8	10	7	18	10	4	51	2	7	5	15	5	4	15	8	3	4	4	8	4	281	
1904—Rate per 1000 ... ..	16.8	25.3	16.3	43.9	40.2	25.1	24.5	24.0	22.1	27.9	38.2	23.8	20.7	31.0	25.2	4.3	31.6	32.8	27.1	35.2	23.3	22.4	27.7	16.4	10.8	26.8	25.2	43.4	24.1	
1903—Rate per 1000 ... ..	42.0	24.1	24.5	16.4	25.6	25.1	18.7	24.0	30.4	19.5	32.7	25.1	20.7	23.2	26.7	23.7	18.09	26.3	25.3	7.0	23.3	25.4	20.8	16.4	21.6	33.5	22.0	32.6	24.2	
II. Deaths, Zymotic— ... ..	...	...	1	...	1	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	
"    From other Causes ... ..	2	6	10	5	1	6	8	2	4	6	6	11	5	3	35	3	3	1	7	2	1	4	3	...	6	2	5	13	160	
Rate per 1000 ... ..	8.4	7.6	16.3	27.4	3.6	30.1	9.3	4.8	11.0	16.7	32.7	14.5	10.3	23.2	17.3	6.4	13.5	6.5	12.6	14.0	5.8	5.8	10.4	...	16.2	13.4	15.7	141.3	13.7	
"    Total ... ..	2	6	11	5	2	6	13	2	4	6	6	11	5	3	36	3	3	1	7	2	1	4	4	...	6	2	5	13	169	
1904—Rate per 1000 ... ..	8.4	7.6	17.9	27.4	7.3	30.1	15.2	4.8	11.0	16.7	32.7	14.5	10.3	23.2	17.8	6.4	13.5	6.5	12.6	14.0	5.8	5.8	13.8	...	16.2	13.4	15.7	141.3	14.5	
1903—Rate per 1000 ... ..	21.0	16.4	14.7	16.4	10.9	20.1	14.0	12.0	16.6	11.1	10.9	21.1	8.2	15.5	14.8	8.6	9.0	13.1	16.2	7.0	29.2	4.4	3.4	21.9	10.8	13.4	12.6	108.6	14.5	
III. Infectious Diseases— (Notification Act.)																														
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Puerperal Fever... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Small Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhoid Fever ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Typhus and other Fevers ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ... ..	...	...	2	...	7	...	19	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	21	...	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
IV. Water Supply* ... ..	...	1	...	...	1	...	5	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	4	...	2	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	21
Sanitary Inspection† ... ..	2	8	21	2	3	3	11	4	3	5	8	10	10	1	14	1	4	1	7	...	...	11	2	3	3	...	5	...	...	142

\*Public Supply. †Notices Issued.

† Excludes population of Workhouse. See column "Workhouse."